COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TENDERS FOR THE ERECTION OF THE NEW BOROUGH PRISONS AT DEVONPORT.

Mr. J. P. St. Aubyn, Architect.

Names and Residences of Parties Tendering.	First Tenders, comprising 70 Cells, Chapel, Officers' Residences, Airing-yard, Boundary-walls, Approaches, &c.			First Extension, comprising 72 Cells east and west of main corridor.			Second Extension, comprising a Second Set of Airing-yards, and 40 Cells north of main corridor.			Third Extension, being additional Residences for Warders.	Principal Building Stone proposed to be used.
	Amount of Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Ditto, including estimate for warming, ventilating, &c.	Amount of Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Ditto, including warming, ventilating, &c.	Amount of Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Builder's Tender.	Cost per Cell. Ditto, including warming, ventilating, &c.		
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Simons, Hoskin, and Jenkin, Morice-town, Devonport ..	11,883 10 9	166 12 5½	169 17 2½	2,666 11 7	37 0 5½	49 19 2½	2,603 5 3	36 8 0½	71 6 9½	674 9 3	Dun-stone
Marshall, Plymouth.....	12,173 16 0	173 16 3	195 3 0	2,770 17 9	38 11 11	51 10 0	2,616 11 4	54 10 2½	67 0 11½	697 0 5	Cann-quarry slate
May, Stoke, Devonport	12,388 1 7	176 17 9½	196 3 5½	3,135 11 1	43 10 11½	56 9 0½	2,616 7 0	54 13 5½	71 13 9½	711 16 3	Ditto.
Mitchell, Plymouth.....	12,715 15 3	181 13 1	202 17 10	2,993 5 5	41 11 5½	54 10 2½	2,665 5 7	55 10 6½	68 9 3½	707 0 9	Ditto
Whiteland and Holland, London	12,712 7 7	181 12 1½	202 16 10½	2,985 6 6½	41 9 3	54 8 0	2,613 7 6	54 13 3	71 11 0	779 5 7	Ditto.
Goodyear and Roberts, Stonehouse	12,949 0 0	184 19 0½	206 4 5½	3,143 0 0	43 13 0½	56 11 0½	2,656 0 0	55 11 8	72 10 5	859 0 0	Ditto.
Stead and Harvey, Plymouth.	13,640 4 3	197 11 4½	219 19 1½	3,177 7 1	44 2 7½	57 1 4½	3,031 19 3	63 3 9½	78 2 0½	766 5 0	Lime-stone.

Note.—The above amounts included Messrs. Pearson and Co.'s tender to the Devonport corporation for the Cann-quarry slate-stone, paving-slabs, &c. Quantities were furnished by Mr. Foster, of Plymouth.

COUNTRY CHURCHYARDS.

The formation of cemeteries in the neighbourhood of cities, and the abandonment altogether of intramural burial, by which, let us hope, it is speedily to be attended, leaves still desirable some improvement of country churchyards, to perfect properly the reform in progress with regard to our means of sepulture. The evil which has bred so much reproach in towns—the disturbance and destruction of graves—exists likewise, after a less expeditious fashion certainly, in the village burial-ground, and from the same cause—want of space. Nor has the facility at hand for remedying this evil in the country, annexing a portion of the contiguous field, been, seemingly, often taken advantage of. The end, besides this constantly proceeding erasure, as it were, of old graves, has been frequently an elevation of earth to a level above that of the floor of the church, producing damp and decay, and not ministering, one would think, to the health of the congregation; or, if the gutter about the building, commonly seen, may counteract the ill effects alleged, the appearance of the church—a choice example, perhaps—remains impaired. The measure demanded appears plainly to be the enlargement of churchyards, where requisite, throughout the kingdom. The sacredness of the grave being this way ensured, an opportunity presents itself for ennobling the view of the church, as well as imparting to the ground a shaded, solemn aspect, by the planting of trees (shrubberies, or anything resembling gardens, to be avoided); nor should a recommendation in favour of improved forms of head stones, &c., be omitted. There are few spots, in short, so capable of being converted, generally, as some instances already betoken, into scenes of more grateful seclusion, of more impressive beauty, than the village burial-yard.

H.

GRAVEYARDS IN CLERKENWELL.

Among the crying evils of the present day may be classed the system of intra-mural burials. In no place is a reform in this particular more necessary than in the district of Clerkenwell, where they are completely hemmed in and closely abutted on, on all sides, by dwelling-houses and workshops, in many cases deriving light and ventilation solely from these pestilential graveyards. The overcrowded state of one of them has been made the subject of a Government commission (I allude to Spafields); the others (four) are scarcely in a better condition; an examination of them is imperatively necessary. My attention, as district surveyor, has lately been called to the state of the vaults in St. James's Church, where, through quite open gratings, piled in rows, are to be seen coffins seven or eight deep: the graveyard is literally crammed. Strange to say, interments still go on. Extensive workshops are being erected on the adjoining properties.

The attention of Government is now being directed to this subject, and the nuisance must be summarily dealt with. Any further interments should be interdicted, the vaults sealed, and 2 feet of concrete placed over the graveyards.

R. Lacon Sibley.

THE FACE OF SHAKSPEARE.

A late inhabitant of Stratford-on-Avon, Mr. William Warner, has forwarded to us a cast of the front half of Shakspeare's head, from the monumental bust in the parish church, nicely mounted on a black slab. The lovers of the poet, whom—

"Neither man nor muse can praise too much,"

may be glad to hear that copies of this are to be had. The mask appears to be a careful transcript of the original, but the hair and beard seem more detailed.

Mr. Britton, in an interesting little volume, which he has just now printed for the subscribers to his testimonial,* "by way of instalment," gives some particulars of the original monument and of the cast taken by Mr. Bullock in 1814, at his suggestion, with evidence in favour of this being a correct resemblance of the poet, worked it may be from a cast taken from life, or rather, perhaps, death.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A general court was held on Thursday last, at the Court House; the Rev. W. Stone in the chair. A letter was received from Mr. Pattison, clerk to the Chelsea Improvement Commissioners, asking for facilities to be afforded to that body for carrying into effect certain cleansing operations, if no legal objection existed to such a course. There being several legal objections, the clerk was ordered to communicate with the commissioners to devise means to meet the difficulties upon the question.

On the question being submitted to the court as to the appointment of two additional surveyors, Mr. Leslie took an objection to their appointment, and called for the report of the committee showing the necessity for them. It appeared there was merely a simple recommendation from the Works Committee. This subject led to a long and rather personal conversation, in which Mr. Leslie, Mr. Bullar, Mr. Chadwick, and the Rev. W. Murray took part; but it was finally resolved that Mr. Bazalgette and Mr. Creasy should be appointed as assistant-surveyors, at a probationary salary each of 250*l.* per annum.

Mr. Graham, of Battersea, attended the court to complain that several cases of cholera had occurred in his family, arising, as he believed, from a most offensive main sewer receiving the drainage of Clapham and discharging into the Thames, and which sewer was on the boundary of his property. The deposit in this sewer was 16 feet wide and 4 feet deep. Mr. Grant, the surveyor, was ordered to report on the subject.

A deputation from the parish of St. James, Westminster, headed by Mr. Charles Cochrane, attended the court, on the subject of cleansing the streets of that parish by "orderlies."

After some discussion it was finally agreed, on the motion of Sir John Burgoyne, that no further proceedings be taken in the matter.

* Appendix to Britton's Auto-biography, containing biographical, archæological, and critical essays on Shakspeare and Stratford, &c.

A report was presented by Mr. Grant on the state of Albion-place, Wandsworth-road—the place in which cholera has raged to so fearful an extent, and so specially referred to in the last report of the Registrar-General. From it it appeared that between the 27th of July and the 13th of August there were in this place, consisting of 17 houses, 38 cases of cholera, and 25 deaths, and that six of these deaths had occurred in one house; and it also appeared that the cisterns for water were below the level of the cesspools. On the 26th of July there was a very heavy fall of rain, which caused the drains to overflow into the water-cisterns. The day after this storm the first person was attacked; and it was mentioned as a remarkable fact, that no persons were attacked east or west of this place where the cisterns were not liable to this overflow.

Miscellanea.

Money for Public Works.—It appears the great hindrance to any public and national work is the want of funds, and the aversion the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to borrowing for such purposes—but surely there cannot be a more legitimate purpose for borrowing. National works, now in abeyance, or in a very slow course of progress, as the Houses of Parliament, Westminster-bridge, deposit for records, National Gallery, are surely not meant for this generation only, but for ages yet to come; then why should the present generation be taxed for the carrying on of such works, and our posterity have the full enjoyment at our expense? Would it not be far more just that the country should be simply taxed for the interest of a sinking fund for the ultimate redemption of the debt, than be charged with the principal money required for such purposes? The immense advantage to the working classes engaged in building operations should have some consideration. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had the most ample funds, still the objection would remain: to employ money raised by taxation for the completion of national works I consider both unjust and impolitic upon those now so heavily burthened.—M. P.

Ipswich Mechanics' Institution.—For some time past the committee of this institution have been striving to obtain a proper building for their purposes, but have heretofore not succeeded. Some of our readers will perhaps remember a competition on the subject, to the terms of which we were obliged to object rather strongly. Plans, it seems, have now been matured, by which, at a contemplated expense of 1,900*l.*, will be obtained a lecture-room 63 feet 6 inches long, 40 feet wide, and 25 feet high, and a reading-room 48 feet long, and 28 feet wide. The committee seek assistance, and we shall be glad to find it afforded to them. Mr. Shave Gowing, of Ipswich, receives subscriptions.

Value of Land.—At the sale, on Monday, of the building land at Woodhill, Portishead, the property was bought in at 400*l.* per acre, about four acres of the least valuable part (two acres and a half of which must not be built upon) having been disposed of previously to the sale at that price.—*Hereford Journal.*

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